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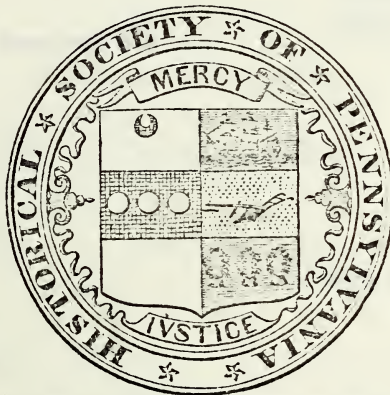
DELIVERED AT CHESTER,

BEFORE THE

Historical Society of Pennsylvania;

On the 8th of November, 1851.

Address



BY EDWARD ARMSTRONG,

*Recording Secretary of the Society.*

IN

CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDING OF  
WILLIAM PENN AT THAT PLACE.



PHILADELPHIA:

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1852.





1667496

HALL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

Philadelphia, Nov. 25th, 1851.

DEAR SIR:

We have been appointed a Committee to request of you for publication, a copy of your excellent and highly instructive Address, delivered at Chester, on the 8th instant, at the Celebration, by the Historical Society, of the One hundred and sixty-ninth Anniversary of the Landing of William Penn, at that place.

We remain, very truly, yours,

HORATIO G. JONES, JR.  
WILLIAM DUANE,  
GEORGE NORTHROP,  
JOHN JORDAN, JR.

EDWARD ARMSTRONG, Esq.

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SOUTH FOURTH STREET,

November 26th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN:

I feel much obliged for the kind, though undeserved terms in which you are pleased to speak of my Address at Chester, delivered in commemoration of the landing of our Founder.

I place the manuscript at your disposal, and trust that this compliance with your request, may tend to remind us of the occasion and lead to the regular and renewed celebration of a day the most memorable in our earlier annals, and of which every true-hearted Pennsylvanian has so much reason to be proud.

I remain, yours, very truly,

EDWARD ARMSTRONG.

To

HORATIO G. JONES, JR.  
WILLIAM DUANE,  
GEORGE NORTHROP, and  
JOHN JORDAN, JR. ESQRS.



Ms. 9771a

## ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

IN the month of October, 1681, within the walls of an ancient mansion in Old England, might have been seen two persons in earnest conference. The one, although some twenty years the senior of the other, felt evidently not the less respect for the well-tempered enthusiasm, the hopeful spirit, and admirably balanced judgment of his companion. Republicans from principle, the sufferings they had undergone had made them republicans from choice.

Algernon Sidney had come down from Penshurst to confer with William Penn, at Worminghurst, and frame the constitution of a great State. A constitution, which through all time was to become the argument unanswerable, for the *Divine* right of the *people*, all over the world. Hear some of the results of their deliberations:—"Any government is free to the people under it (whatever be the frame) where the laws rule, and the people are party to those laws, and more than this is tyranny, oligarchy, and confusion. . . . Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad: if it be ill, they will cure it. But if men be bad, let the government be never so good, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it to their turn. Some say, let us have good laws, and no matter for the men that execute them: but let them consider, that though good laws do well, good men do better: for good laws may want good men, and be abolished or invaded by ill men; but good men will never want good laws, nor suffer ill ones. . . . That therefore



which makes a good constitution, must keep it, viz : men of wisdom and virtue, qualities that because they descend not with worldly inheritances, must be carefully propagated by a virtuous education of youth, for which after ages will owe more to the care and prudence of founders, and the successive magistracy, than to their parents for their private patrimonies. . . . The great end of all government is to support power in reverence with the people, and to secure the people from the abuse of power ; that they may be free by their just obedience, and the magistrates honorable for their just administration : for liberty without obedience is confusion, and obedience without liberty is slavery. To carry this evenness is partly owing to the constitution, and partly to the magistracy : where either of these fail, government will be subject to convulsions ; but where both are wanting, it must be totally subverted ; then where both meet, the government is like to endure. Which I humbly pray and hope, God will please to make the lot of Pennsylvania.”\*

How nobly uttered. Truths in 1681, which, by the confirmation of millions in 1851, have been proved great, practical, imperishable.

Justice cannot be done the character of Penn, unless we view it in contrast with the age in which he lived. He foresaw the progress of freedom, and displayed no less courage, than sagacity. For the doctrines we have just quoted, were the terror of the very king from whom he received his charter ; their practical enforcement overturned the throne of his father, and were the warrant for his trial and execution ; and yet they were published and avowed by Penn ; and framed, with the assistance of the lamented Sidney, whose life the government had then determined, if possible, to take, and who, two years afterwards, for asserting upon paper the same principles of republican liberty, perished on the scaffold. Perhaps no branch of inquiry has been so much the subject of theory as the science of government. But few of those who have thought or written about it, have

\* Preface to Frame of Government. 1 Col. Rec. xxiii.





had the misfortune to suffer, to the full extent, the infliction of the evils they strove to remedy, or the good fortune to realize their cherished speculations. Penn had both. A Charles was on the throne; Locke had not written his glorious letters on toleration; the Revolution had not taken place; the people, benumbed, as it were, by the political convulsions through which they had just passed, slumbered, so that no oppression, however enormous, seemed sufficient to arouse them. Our Proprietary was therefore eminently fitted for the task which Providence had assigned him. Mark, how broadly he lays the foundations of religious freedom. "That all persons living in this province, who confess and acknowledge the one Almighty and Eternal God, to be the Creator, Upholder, and Ruler of the world, and that hold themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and justly in civil society, shall in no ways be molested or prejudiced for their religious persuasion or practice, in matters of faith and worship, nor shall they be compelled at any time, to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or ministry whatever."

Nor did he overlook that general political liberty, which is the corner-stone of religious liberty; he felt, in the words already quoted, "that government only could be free, where the laws ruled, and the people were party to those laws."

Locke, his friend, attempted to frame a constitution for a sister republic, but how immeasurably inferior to Penn's. Based on false principles, cumbrous and oppressive, it perished at its birth, while Penn's has flourished in immortal youth, as obvious, sensible, just, and practical now, as when it was given to the people. The modifications it has undergone since 1681, to the present period, have been but emanations of its original principles, the growth of a vigorous trunk, the result of progress, subject of course to that admirable qualification in the first charter, and to which we have referred, "that although good laws may want good men, and be abolished, or invaded, by ill men, good men will never want good laws, nor suffer ill ones, for liberty without obedience, is confusion, and obedience without liberty, is slavery."





Penn's mind had early been directed to the study of political constitutions; for we are told, by himself, that at the age of seventeen, and when at Oxford, during the period of a change in his religious views, his attention had been turned to America, in the hope of founding a colony—to use his own words, “that his understanding and inclinations had been much directed to observe and reprove mischiefs in government.” There is no doubt the conviction forced itself upon a mind matured beyond its years, that the soil of England was unfriendly to the growth of the religious and political freedom he and his friends sought to implant. That in a new region only, unincumbered with the claims of prerogative and ecclesiastical power, useless customs and sturdy prejudices, could they flourish. It appears that the Friends, even prior to the period to which Penn alludes, had fixed their eyes upon this continent. Bowden, in his *History of Friends in America*,\* (and we do not recollect that the circumstance has been stated by any of our writers,) says, “the Quakers early had their attention drawn to the promotion of a colony in America. The whole coast from Maine to Florida, having either been colonized or claimed by parties for that purpose, it was no easy matter to obtain land for the foundation of a Quaker settlement.” Josiah Cole, “who had travelled extensively as a gospel minister in America, and particularly among the Indians of the interior, on his second visit to that country, in 1660, appears to have been commissioned by his brethren at home, to treat with the Susquehanna Indians, (whom he had visited about two years before) for the purchase of land. For this purpose he had interviews with them, but their being at that time involved in a deadly war with some neighboring tribes, together with the absence of William Fuller, (a Friend of considerable influence,) in Maryland, and who had, it appears, taken some step on the subject, presented an insurmountable obstacle to any progress in the matter at that time.”

Penn's connection with the affairs of the Colony of New

\* Vol. 1, pp. 389–390.



Jersey, was the first practical direction his mind received upon the subject of legislation. The constitution which he assisted in framing for West New Jersey, displays enlarged views of government, and would of itself be sufficient to rescue his memory from neglect. But the result of his reflections and experience was soon to be exhibited on a wider field, free from conflicting rights and interests. It was the knowledge of these advantages, and his devotion to the principles of his society, that induced so many to gather around him, and which made his colony prosperous beyond example on our shores. And the respect his constancy had won, amidst temptations that would have allured one less deeply impressed with the greatness of his purpose, abated opposition at the hands of those who might have thwarted him had they been disposed. His colonists knew him to be sincere, the government believed him to be honest. It is a question, therefore, whether under the peculiar condition of the times, any other than Penn would have been enabled to establish a colony at once so prosperous, if the King had been willing to confer upon any other a charter so liberal.

It may not be out of place, before proceeding further, to glance at the history of the Dutch and Swedish colonies, and more particularly in this region, rendered so interesting to us, as the spot on which Penn first trod the soil of Pennsylvania.

The Dutch claim to have discovered and occupied our Bay as early as 1598.\*

Hudson certainly visited it in 1609—though it is not known that he landed—and was followed by Mey, who on behalf of “certain merchants interested in maritime discovery,” and under authority of the States General, set sail from Holland with five vessels, and in 1618 arrived at Delaware Bay giving a name to its eastern cape, which it has retained to this day. Mey and his companions, with the exception of Captain Hendrickson, returned to Holland, the latter remained, and in a

\* We are indebted for the materials of this sketch of the History, prior to Penn's arrival, of the Swedes and Dutch, to Mr. Hazard's valuable “Annals of Pennsylvania.”



yacht of but 16 tons burden, built at Manhattan, and supposed to have been the first vessel constructed in this country by Europeans, was the first to explore our Bay and River, which he ascended as high as the Schuylkill.

Hendrickson returned to Holland, and claimed, apparently without success, the privileges attendant upon his discovery.

The establishment in 1621, of the Dutch West India Company, led to active preparations for peopling the Bay and River.

Mey returned to the Delaware, and in 1623, made the first settlement upon it, by the erection of Fort Nassau, at or near the site of the present town of Gloucester.

In 1626, Gustavus Adolphus conferred a charter upon the Swedish West India Company. No immediate result followed his liberal grant of powers.

The first purchase of the Indians of land, in this region, was made in 1633, for the Dutch West India Company by Arent Corssen, Commissary of Fort Nassau, to whom was conveyed "the Schuylkill and adjoining lands" and on which was afterwards erected Fort Beversrede.

The period had now arrived when the possession of our Bay and River was to become a matter of serious dispute. The attention of the Swedish West India Company appears at last to have been aroused to the advantage of its trade and settlement, from the flattering representations of Minuit, who having resided at Manhattan, as Director of the Dutch West India Company, became dissatisfied, and deserted their interests.

In April, 1638, a date which the industry of Mr. Hazard, has at length settled, Minuit accompanied by about 50 Swedes arrived here, and built (near the site of Wilmington) Fort Christina, which became the subject of after conflicts and the scene of the surrender of the Swedish authority to that of the Dutch, and of the latter to the arms of England.

One of the first acts of the Swedes was to purchase of the Indians the lands from Cape Henlopen to the falls at Trenton, a portion of which, however, had been already sold by them to the Dutch.





The Dutch, at Fort Nassau, soon began to feel their trade was seriously affected by the success of their rivals, who had gained it by their liberal conduct towards the Indians. They did not know, however, in what way to rid themselves of their troublesome neighbors.

Two years after the coming of the Swedes, a fresh annoyance to both nations arose, from the arrival of a colony of English from New Haven, which established itself at the Schuylkill, upon the very land the Dutch had bought of the Indians. This could not be endured. I quote from the document issued by the Director General and Council at Manhattan: "It was an affair of ominous consequence, disrespectful of their High Mightinesses, injurious to the interests of the Company, as by it their commerce on the South River might be eventually ruined, and that it was their duty to drive these English from thence, in the best manner possible." What construction the Commissary at Fort Nassau put upon the directions he in consequence received, history was not permitted to record, for Gov. Kieft deeming the best, the most effectual manner, "by force and in a hostile way," (as the English declare,) "burnt their trading house, seized, and for some time detained their goods in it, not suffering their servants so much as to take a just inventory of them." The Swedes completed what the Dutch permitted to remain undone, and so ended the adventures of the New Haven Colony on the Schuylkill. It might be interesting to speculate as to results, had the English achieved a settlement. Another destiny, in that event, perhaps not the less auspicious to freedom and civil rights, might have befallen this region, but a more liberal charter of privileges, and a nobler liberty of religious opinions, could not have been their lot.

The year succeeding that which sealed the fate of the English colonists, marked the advent of Governor Printz, a favorite of his Queen, and the most energetic and capable of the Swedish governors.

In person he is described as very bulky—for, De Vries asserts, "he weighed upwards of four hundred pounds, and





drank three drinks at every meal," apparently regretting he could not be punished for this indulgence of his taste. De Vries, however, was not in the best humor, as he had been fired at, upon passing Fort Elsinburg, then just erected near the present site of Salem. It has been suggested it was not Printz, but a relation, to whom De Vries alludes, as the Governor would not likely forsake his residence to command this remote post.

? We fear it will not be so easy to defend Printz from a more serious charge: for it is stated that a Mr. Lamberton, having been sent to remonstrate, and to claim satisfaction for the injuries done to the New Haven colony, "the Governor demeaned himself as if he had neither Christian nor moral conscience; getting Mr. Lamberton into his power, by feigned and false pretences, and keeping him prisoner, and some of his men. Laboring, by promises and threats, to draw them to accuse him to have conspired with the Indians to cut off the Swedes and the Dutch; and not prevailing these ways, then by attempting to make them drink, so that he might draw something from them. And in the end, (though he could gain no testimony,) yet he forced him to pay a weight of beaver before he would set him at liberty. He is also a man very furious and passionate; reviling the English at New Haven as runagates, &c., and he himself, with his own hands, put irons on one of Mr. Lamberton's men."

The testimony of another witness is to this effect: "That John Woolen told him, that at *his*, the said Woolen's, first coming into the Swede's fort, he was brought into a room in which the Governor's wife, Timothy the barber, and the watch-master came to him, and brought wine and strong beer, and gave him, with a purpose, as he conceived, to have made him drunk; and after he had largely drunk there, the Governor sent for him into his own chamber, and gave him more strong beer and wine, and drank freely with him, entertaining of him with much respect seemingly, and with a profession of a great deal of love to him, making very large promises to do very much good for him, if he would but say



that George Lamberton had hired the Indians to cut off the Swedes. But the said John Woolen denied it. Then the Governor drank to him again, and said he would make him a man, give him a plantation, and build him a house, and he should not want for gold and silver, if he would but say as is said before. He would do more for him than the English could, for he loved him as his own child. But the said John answered that there was no such thing, and if he would give him his house full of gold, he would not say so. And then the Governor seemed to be exceeding angry, and threatened him very much, and after that drank to him again, and pressed him to confess, as before; which the said John Woolen refusing, the Governor was much enraged, and stamped with his feet, (which this deponent himself heard, being in the room under him,) and calling for irons, he put them upon the said John Woolen with his own hands, and sent him down to prison, as before is expressed. And this deponent saith, that the aforesaid Swedes' watch-master came into the prison, and brought strong beer, and drank with them about two hours in the night, and pressed the said John Woolen to say that the said George Lamberton had hired the Indians to cut off the Swedes, and he should be loosed from his irons presently; but John Woolen said he would not say it, if he should be hanged, drawn and quartered, because he would *not* take away the life of a man that was innocent. Then he pressed him further, that he would speak any thing to that purpose, be it never so little, and he should be free presently; but John Woolen said he could not say it, nor he would not say it. And he further saith, that the said watch-master pressed him, this deponent, to the same purpose, and he should have his liberty, which he also refused, knowing no such thing. This deponent saith, that at another time, while he was in prison, Gregory, the merchants' man, came to him, and told him they were sent by the Governor to charge him with treason, which he had spoken against the Queen and lords of Sweden, namely, that he had wished them burned and hanged, which he, this deponent, utterly denied;



and then the said Gregory fetched a flagon of strong beer, and drank it with him, and after that fetched the said flagon full of sack, and drank that with him also, and bid him call for wine and strong beer when he listed, and questioned with him about George Lamberton's hiring the Indians as afore-said: his answer was, he knew no such thing."

If this account is not too highly colored, and the Governor was inclined to something more than an excessive hospitality, his pertinacity was equalled only by his victims' superior powers of resistance to temptation, and their honest fortitude. To us this narration gives a more vivid idea of the condition of things, and the policy at that time of the rule upon the Delaware, than could be presented by the most labored description.

Fort Christina being too far from Fort Nassau, Printz, with much sagacity, erected Fort Gottenberg, (near the Lazaretto,) on the island of Tinicum, and thus no little annoyed his neighbors, and acquired much additional control of the river. He also here built Printz Hall, or the "*palace*," as it was called, which was standing at the beginning of this century, and it will be recollected became the scene of many incidents in Swedish history.

In 1643, he turned his attention to fortifying the avenues of the Schuylkill, in order to obtain the trade of the Indians at Kingsessing, which the Dutch had secured by the erection of Fort Beversrede. For this purpose he built a fort upon the Schuylkill near, it is supposed, the site of Bartram's Garden, also a mill and a block house, which it is thought were situated on Cobbs' creek, near the Blue Bell.

Kieft was, in 1647, succeeded at New Amsterdam by Stuyvesant, and Printz in 1653 by Rysingh, under whose administrations the closing scenes of the existence of their respective governments were to be enacted.

Rysingh, in coming up the river, captured from the Dutch Fort Casimir, (which stood upon the site of New Castle,) a fatal act, in violation of his instructions, and which precipitated the downfall of the Swedish power upon the Delaware.





It is gratifying to be able to say, that this error of judgment, was mitigated by a wise stroke of domestic policy, for although we may condemn the soldier, we must commend the citizen; and I am sure, the character of the last Swedish Governor will, in the eyes of many of my audience, stand greatly redeemed, when I inform them that one of his first official acts was, a letter which he addressed to the Minister of Sweden, in which he says, "I pray your Excellency to procure for me a good wife, relying for this object upon your Excellency, with more confidence than on any other person in the world."

I do not know whether his wish was accomplished, or if gratified, whether he had reason to regret his Excellency's choice, but the commission displays more confidence in another's judgment, than is generally reposed in these degenerate days.

Stuyvesant having seized a Swedish ship, which, bound for the Delaware, by mistake put into the North river, sought to retaliate the loss of Fort Casimir, or secure its restoration. Tedious negotiations ensued, in the course of which, the Dutch invites the Swedish Governor to visit New Amsterdam, assuring him he will "receive a cordial reception, with comfortable lodgings and courteous treatment to his full satisfaction, without the least embarrassment to his honor and suite, goods or vessels."

Rysingh did not accept this invitation, and as Mr. Hazard suggests, probably found his lodgings equally comfortable at Fort Casimir. We may readily imagine the gleam of satisfaction that passed over the face of the shrewd Dutch Governor as he despatched this invitation, and the smile of perfect contentment, which illuminated that of his rival, when he received it. Stratagem failing, Stuyvesant resorted to more active measures, and with his usual vigor and decision, at once and with secrecy, began to make arrangements for a descent upon the Delaware. With seven vessels and six or seven hundred men, he retakes Fort Casimir, and proceeds to Fort Christina, which cost him fourteen days of preparation, before he accomplished his purpose, al-





though its garrison was weak, and might have been compelled to a surrender in as many hours. A record of the movements of the assailing party, was preserved by Rysingh, from which it appears, that the gradual approaches of Stuyvesant, were made with great military precision and immense ceremony. "On the second day," he says, "the Dutch *showed* themselves in considerable numbers on the opposite bank of creek, but attempted no hostile operations; on the third they hoisted their flag on our shallop; on the fourth they planted gabions and so forth; they now began to encroach upon us more and more every day; on the fourteenth day, having nearly completed their works, they brought the guns of all their batteries to bear upon us." We are satisfied that Rysingh's patience must have at last become exhausted, and believe, although no document records it, that he more than once exclaimed, "If you intend to take me, why dont you, and have an end of it!" Christina subdued, Gottenberg soon fell, and with it the Swedish power on the Delaware, without the loss of blood on either side.

The Directors in Holland compliment Stuyvesant for his conduct, but regret that the articles of capitulation should have been reduced to writing; they think he should have followed the example of the Swedes when they seized Fort Casimir; their reasons are in these words and are very significant. "That all which is written and copied is too long preserved, and may sometimes, when it is neither desired nor expected, be brought forward; whereas words not recorded, are by length of time forgotten, or may be explained, construed, or excused as circumstances may require."

The enjoyment of their conquest was brief. The Dutch were compelled to surrender to the English, and although the former became repossessed, the colonies reverted to the latter, under the treaty of Westminster. It was a very gentle affair with both parties, for notwithstanding Stuyvesant thought of resistance, yet fearing, as he remarks, the spilling of innocent blood, quietly surrenders to Nicholls, who declares himself equally actuated by the same humane motive.



The early history of Upland or Chester, deserves some attention at our hands on this interesting occasion. Upland, as we are aware, took its name from a Province on the Gulf of Bothnia, the birth place probably of some of the colonists. The Indians, says Campanius, called it Mecoponacka, and shortly after its settlement, the same author asserts, it possessed a Fort. More probably, as a late writer\* suggests, and as no reference is made to it by any other chronicler, a strong house, or block house—a description of defence never neglected at that period in the settlements upon our river. It is likely Campanius has confounded it with Fort Oplandt, erected by De Vries, in 1631, at the site of the present town of Lewes.

We find Upland mentioned as early as 1648, and allusion is made to its having previously been possessed by the Swedes. Whether under title from the Indians, by special grant for this particular district, or by grant from Christina, does not appear. If by purchase from the Indians, it was doubtless subsequently confirmed, or re-granted by the Swedish Queen; although very little is known of the extent to which patents were conferred by the Swedish Government. Chester† and

\* "Ferris' History of the original settlements on the Delaware."

† The territory extending from Chester to the Neshaminy, was settled at a very early day. How early in every instance, it would, perhaps, now be impossible to say, much earlier doubtless than the dates of the respective grants. The patents were generally designated by the Indian name, most predominant within their limits.

The site of Philadelphia was granted to the Swansons as early as 1664, by patent from Stuyvesant, though it is not improbable that they were in ownership prior to that date. In March, 1675, Walter Wharton<sup>1</sup> surveyed to Jurian Hartsfelder,<sup>2</sup> the tract of 350 acres, called "Hartsfield," (the present Northern Liberties,) which was embraced between a small run called Coonahqusnauque on the south, and Cohocksink creek on the north.

<sup>1</sup> The information in this note was principally derived from a book of surveys, by Walter Wharton, in the Surveyor General's Office, at Harrisburgh. Wharton was appointed by Lovelace, in 1671, "Surveyor General on the West side of Delaware," and dying in 1679 was succeeded by Richard Noble, as "Surveyor of Upland."

<sup>2</sup> The minutes of the Commissioners of property, at Harrisburgh, state under date of 10th, 11th month, 1690-1. that the widow of Jurian Hartsfield, had married Humphrey Edwards. We regret so little is known of the former owner of this large tract.



its neighborhood would seem to have been granted to six inhabitants, for in 1678, a conveyance was made by Hans Juriansen Kien, of Taakonink, (Tacony) to his brother Jonas Juriansen Kien, of two hundred acres in "Upland town, or

In 1664, Peter Cox acquired the title to six hundred acres on the river, above Cohocksink creek; and in 1675, a grant of sixteen hundred acres, called "*Shazamazunk*," (in which this six hundred was included) was made to Gunner Rambo, Erick and Otto Ernest Cox, Michael and Peter Neilson, six Swedes. It stretched a distance of three miles up the Delaware, from the mouth of Cohocksink creek, to a point rather above the shoal of Petty's Island, and averaged a mile in width.

In the same year (1675) Peter Cox acquired six hundred and fifty acres between the northern boundary of the Shakamaxon patent, and the south side of Frankford Creek. This was called *Quessina-womink*, which was also the Indian name of Frankford Creek.

In the same year, Erick Mullock, Ole Neilson, and Christian Thomason, all Swedes, purchased nine hundred and fifty acres immediately north of the last named grant, lying on the river between Frankford and *Sissowokissink* creeks, which we take to be the present Wissinoming. This was called the "*Tawocawomink*" (Tacony) patent.

Also in the same year, Peter Peterson and Jasper Fish, purchased five hundred acres on the river, and on the south side of Pemmeepakha creek, which was called the Pemmeepacka patent, and which with three hundred acres previously bought by Michael Fredericks, immediately adjoining the last grant on the south, probably embraced *all* the land, between the Pennepack and Tacony patents, a portion of these tracts had eight years before been granted to Andrew Carr.

In 1678, there was surveyed to *Peter Rambo, Jr.*, a tract called "Ramsdorp," extending from the Pennepack north-eastwardly, fifty perches along the Delaware, and which contained three hundred acres. In the preceding year, (1677) warrants were issued to Ephraim Herman, Pelle Rambo and Captain Hans Moens for three hundred each, (making nine hundred acres) and in 1678 to Ephraim Herman, (who in the following year relinquished his right to Laers Laersen) for the *remainder* of the land, between the Pennepack and Poquessink. We have now reached, as it is differently named in ancient records, the Poatquessink, Poaquessink, and Paequessink.

James Sanderlands, and Lawrence Cox, under a survey of 1678, (and who in the year succeeding transfer their interest to Walter, John and Francis Forrest) acquire title to the "*Poquessink*" patent of 417 acres, which in one direction extended from Poquessink north-eastwardly, one mile along the Delaware.

Immediately adjoining on the north of this last mentioned patent, stretching along the river, nearly half a mile, was surveyed to Henry Hastings, the





neighborhood," to whom with five others, twelve hundred acres had been granted by the English government at New York.

The names of the other grantees we have not ascertained. Neeles Mattsen and James Sandilands were doubtless two of them. It was the policy of the English government, to grant lands in a body to at least six persons, as it had been that of the Dutch, to a community of at least sixteen.

There can be no question that this was but a patent of confirmation, not an original grant, and that the same land had been granted, or very likely confirmed, to the Swedish settlers by Dutch patents, from Stuyvesant or his predecessors. The history of the title to Finland, afterwards called Marritties Hook, and subsequently Marcus Hook, may throw some light on the inquiry. This last name was, by the request of its inhabitants, and under a grant from Markham, in April, 1682, changed to Chichester,\* which it still bears.

In 1653, Queen Christina granted the region of Marcus Hook, as far as Upland Kill, to Captain Besk, for his faithful services on behalf of the colony. And in 1676, Andross confirmed the lands of Marritties' Hook, amounting to one thousand acres, to the six possessors thereof, Charles Jansen, Oele Raessen, Hans Oolsen, Oole Neelsen, Hans Hoffman, and Jan Hendricksen. This whole vicinity appears at that time to have been in the possession of but a few persons, and their tenants or dependents.

Upland was not, however, wholly occupied by the Swedes,

"*Hasting's Hope*" containing two hundred acres.<sup>1</sup> Dunk Williams, Jean Claassen, Paerdi Cooper, Pelle Dalbo, Lace Cox, Thomas Jacobs, Wm. Jeacox, purchase, in the years 1677 and 1678, on the Neshaminy and in its vicinity. So that the whole of this region was in the hands of settlers, mostly Swedes, some time before Penn's arrival.

\* Records at West Chester.

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<sup>1</sup> Pennepack and Poquessink are mentioned by Campanius, as Indian villages, in each of which presided a Chief or Sachem. Their location has long ago been lost, even to tradition, but was probably near the river and on the streams which still bear these names. The discovery of Indian utensils and implements collected beneath the soil, may some day indicate their site.





for we discover that Robert Wade, who, in 1675, came with Fenwick's colony to Salem, proceeded to this place, where, in the same year, he built a house, which he called the "Essex House," and which stood until about the period of the Revolution. Its site must ever remain an interesting spot to Pennsylvanians, as the place where our Founder was first met and entertained within our borders.

Wade and Sandilands were the largest owners of land in this vicinity. The former held three hundred and sixty acres upon the southern side of Chester creek, and Sandilands was a large proprietor on its northern side.

Wade was a justice of the peace, under the government of the Duke of York, and that of Penn; the highest judicial office known at that period, or until some time after the establishment of the government under the Proprietary, and to which belonged not only a supervisory power over the morals and affairs of the country, but which combined, in miniature, as well the powers of judge as chancellor. He also was a minister in his Society, much valued by Penn, and perhaps the most prominent man in the province at that time. He died much lamented, in 1698.\*

Ebeling asserts that Upland was established as the chief place of a judicial district, in 1673.† We discover, however, that a Court was held here the previous year, and very probably was erected soon after the acquisition of the territory by the English, in 1664. It sat at the houses of different inhabitants, and the magistrates seem to have suffered inconvenience from the want of a Court House. In 1677, Captain Hans Jurgin is ordered by the justices to fit up and finish the House of Defence at Upland, fit for the Court to sit in, against *next* Court.‡

It would be a matter of interest to know where this building stood, and it is, perhaps, the same which is referred to in the following order: "Neils Laersen is directed to make or

\* Wade appears to have died without issue. He devised his estate to his nephew and niece. See his will in Register's Office, at Philadelphia.

† 1 Hazard's Register, 341.

‡ Upland Records.



leave a lane or street from Upland creek to the House of Defence or Country House, before next Court, or be fined.”\*

The want of a Court House was not the only trouble the honest magistrates encountered. The records furnish frequent evidence of their difficulty in securing revenue sufficient to keep the wheels of justice in motion; and in 1680 the following *summary* order was made: “That for defraying the charges of this Court’s sitting, each person shall pay yearly one scipple of wheat, or five gilders, according to former practice; and such as prove neglective to be fetched by the constable by way of restraynt.”†

We presume they meant the wheat was to be brought, and not the person, and that the officer of the law was properly enlightened as to the meaning of his superiors.

It is to be regretted so little is known as to the manner in which justice was administered on the bay and river prior to the conquest by the English. As to the Swedes, we apprehend that nearly all their judicial records perished, with other royal archives, in 1697, at the destruction of the palace at Stockholm. And we fear, as to the records of the Dutch, it is in vain to indulge the hope that the industry and good fortune of Mr. Brodhead have not secured all that will ever be obtained from Holland. It is quite likely, were it otherwise, that much might be ascertained as to the origin of existing features peculiar to the jurisprudence of this State. Certain it is, that several peculiarities might be named, which were borrowed by the English from the Dutch, and probably by the latter from the Swedes.

In the instructions to Governor Printz, dated in 1642,‡ he is directed to decide all controversies “by the laws, customs, and usages of Sweden, and in *other* things to adopt and follow the laudable manners, customs, and usages of Sweden.” From this it may be inferred that all judicial power was invested in the Governor, and that justice in these parts, which in its administration was more minute and domestic than would

\* Upland Records.

† Ibid.

‡ Hazard’s Annals, 67.



be permitted at this day, was, so far as required by the simple condition of the people, dispensed at the palace of Governor Printz, upon the island of Tinicum.

After the conquest by the Dutch, the judicial power upon the river, though somewhat less absolutely, appears to have been exercised *also* by the Governor; for, in the instructions to Jacquet, he is empowered "to do justice, and administer it, either in civil or military cases."\* He was assisted by a Council, consisting of four persons, to which "he proposed all matters relative to police, justice, commerce," &c.

New Amstel† was, at one time, placed under a local and independent jurisdiction; but, from subsequent instructions to Governor Beekman, in 1658, the administration of the law continued to be invested in the Governor.‡ The Swedes, at least those who swore allegiance to the Dutch, were still in a measure governed by their own officers.

The English, on the acquisition of the territory, continued the magistrates in power for a limited time, and afterwards reappointed many of them in that capacity. The bay and river were at this, or within a short period, divided into three jurisdictions: that of the present Lewes, Newcastle, and Chester; and the body of laws called the Duke's Laws, which was published in 1664, at a general meeting at Hempsted, Long Island, under a commission from the Duke of York, was extended over the colony on our bay and river. The Court consisted of the justices of the peace of each jurisdiction, three of whom became a quorum, had power to act as a Court of Sessions, and to decide matters in law and *equity*.§ All suits under a certain sum, were determined without appeal, (which, when taken, was to the Court of Assizes, at New York,) and all under another sum without a jury, unless desired by the parties.

Chester, from the descriptions which the Proprietary received of it in England, at one time arrested his attention as a proper place for his projected city; for he directed his com-

\* Hazard's Annals, 205.

† Hazard's Annals, 221.

‡ Newcastle.

§ Ibid. 427.





missioners to sound the river, especially at "Upland," and to examine Chester creek, to ascertain if it was navigable, "at least for boats up into the country."\*

There are some interesting traditions as to the selection of a site for Philadelphia, which it may be well enough to notice in passing. According to Mr. Watson, (in his valuable Annals, and to whom all owe thanks for the preservation of that which but for his industry would have perished,) Pennsbury, Bristol, (then Buckingham,) the bank of the Delaware near the lower side of Poquessink creek,† were all examined as locations for the new city. As to Pennsbury‡ and Bristol, there is pretty strong evidence in support of the tradition. But it may by some be pronounced very improbable that the commissioners should venture to examine places so remote as those of Pennsbury and Bristol.

A curious letter, however, from Laurie, Penn and others, Proprietors of West New Jersey, is given at length in Smith,§ which would seem to show that more regard was had to *internal trade*, than to the advantages to commerce from nearness to the ocean, and which renders it not at all improbable, that under the notions then prevailing, the distance of Pennsbury was not an objection, as compared with positions nearer the sea.

In 1676, they instructed James Wasse, Richard Hartsborne, and Richard Guy,|| to choose a tract for a town upon some creek or bay on the *eastern* shore of the Delaware, "and up the river," we quote the words, "as far as a vessel of a hundred tons can go—for we intend to have a way cut across the country to Sandy Hook; so the further up the way, the shorter."

Very great importance would therefore appear to have been attached to the advantages of river communication with the interior of the country; and was not the evidence beyond dispute, it would now scarcely be credited, that Penn believed

\* 2 Memoirs of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, p. 216.

† 2 Proud. 259, *note*.

‡ History of New Jersey, p. 80.

‡ 1 Watson, p. 56.

|| Smith, 84.



the Schuylkill front of Philadelphia, was to become the more valuable, because both sides of the river were under his jurisdiction.\*

We have already mentioned some of the preliminary steps, taken to establish his new government. His charter having been granted, his liberal concessions and noble array of political privileges set forth, he prepared, with many of his chosen friends of like religious persuasion, to enter upon his great experiment.

They set sail with elevated hopes, but sickness and sorrow soon saddened their hearts: thirty of the one hundred who embarked perished from a contagious malady during their tedious voyage.†

\* The Proprietary, "expecting that must be the principal river, as having both sides of it in the same province, which I have several times heard him declare, were his first thoughts."—Statement made by James Logan, in his will, Book I., p. 516, Philadelphia.

† It is to be regretted that there is no record of the names of those who accompanied Penn. We are not aware even of an attempt to collect the scattered information on the subject; but from sources hitherto unexplored we have been able to present an incomplete list of those whose names should not be permitted to die. Individuals doubtless have been omitted, with respect to whom the proof would have been sufficient had it been accessible. The task was the more difficult from the fact that tradition, generally unreliable, was particularly so in the present inquiry, inasmuch as it has handed down the names of some who came with our Founder, without designating whether upon his first visit, or his second in 1699. Another embarrassment also arose from the circumstance of twenty-three vessels having arrived in 1682.

The principal sources of proof in preparing the subjoined list of eighty-eight persons who embarked, were found in the wills of Barber, Heriott, Ingram, and Wade, in the Register's Office at Philadelphia, and which were made on board the "Welcome," and all of whom probably died on board; in a "Registry of Arrivals," in the Recorder's Office at Doylestown; and in "Comly's History of Byberry," 2d vol. of *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*.

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JOHN BARBER and Elizabeth his wife, eldest daughter of John Songhurst, of *Shipley*, county of Sussex, England, (See his will made on board "Welcome," September 20, 1682, Will Book, A. p. 10,) was "a first purchaser."

WILLIAM BRADFORD, (See Dixon's *Life of Penn*, p. 208,) of *Leicester*, Eng-

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\* Robert Greenaway, the master of the "Welcome," died 14th April, 1686, (Adm. Book, A, p. 27, Philadelphia.)



What language therefore can adequately describe the gratitude of the Founder and his companions, as the Welcome drew near and made fast in sight of the spot on which we

land, the earliest printer of the province. Engaging zealously in the Keithean controversy, "he took the side of the minority, and becoming unpopular on that account, in 1693 removed to New York, where, on 16th October, 1725, he established the "New York Gazette," the first newspaper published in that city, and after an active and useful life, died in 1752, aged 94. (2 Thomas' Hist. Printing, pp. 7, 286, and Mr. Wharton's Notes on the Provincial Literature of Pennsylvania. Mem. of Hist. Society.)

WILLIAM BUCKMAN, Mary his wife, and children, Sarah and Mary, of the parish of *Billinghurst*, Sussex, (Registry of Arrivals).

JOHN CARVER, and Mary his wife, of *Hertfordshire*, (see Comly's History of Byberry, in 2d vol. of Memoirs of Historical Society, p. 181,) suffered in 1681 in the persecution of the Quakers in England; (1 Besse, p. 196,) a first purchaser; died in 1714.

BENJAMIN CHAMBERS, (mentioned in its probate as having with John Songhurst written the will of William Wade;) of Rochester, Kent, (See "Friends' certificates from England, recorded at Philadelphia,") was sheriff in 1683, of the city and county of Philadelphia, and his name frequently appears as a participant in public affairs. (1 Col. Records, pp. 30, 57, 301, &c.)

THOMAS CHROASDALE, and "Agnes his wife, and six children," of Yorkshire. (Certificate, dated 4 month, June, 1682, of Settle Monthly Meeting, Yorkshire, Comly's Byberry, 2 Memoirs Historical Society, p. 182, in note.) On the authority of Mr. Robert Waln, Mr. Comly states that those whose names were embraced in that certificate, came in the "Welcome."

ELLEN COWGILL, "and family." (Certificate from Settle Monthly Meeting.)

JOHN FISHER, Margaret his wife, and son John. (On authority of papers in possession of Mr. Thomas Gilphin, of Philadelphia.)

THOMAS FITZWATER, and sons Thomas and George, of Hamworth, Middlesex. His wife Mary, and children Josiah and Mary, died on the passage. (See Registry of Arrivals.) Settled in county of Bucks, and was a member of Assembly from that county in 1683; active in public life, a valuable citizen and eminent minister in his society. Died 6th October, 1699. (1 Proud, p. 422)

THOMAS GILLETT. (Witness to will of John Barber.)

CUTHBERT HAYHURST, "his wife and family." (Certificate from Settle Meeting.) Suffered in 1661 and 1668 on account of his religious principles. (1 Besse, 571; 2 do. 102.) A first purchaser. Born at Easington, in Boland, Yorkshire; died in Bucks, 5th March, 1682-3, aged 50. (Collection of Memorials, p. 1.)

THOMAS HERIOTT of Hurst-Pier-Point, Sussex. (See Nuncupative will declared on board "Welcome," 19th September, 1682, Book-A, p. 4.) Suf-

\* We are indebted for a copy of these, to Mr. James S. Lippincott.





are now assembled. They land before the house of good Robert Wade, their fellow sufferer in the cause of truth, Penn's friend in England, and who, as we have seen, by  
 fered in England on account of his religious principles. (1 Besse, 721.)  
 A first purchaser.

JOHN HEY. (Registry of Arrivals.)

RICHARD INGELO. (Witness to the will of Isaac Ingram.) Was clerk of Prov. Council in 1685. (1 Col. Rec. 81.)

ISAAC INGRAM of Gatton, Surry. (See will made 26th September, 1682, on board "Welcome," Book A, p. 11.) Suffered on account of his religious principles. (1 Besse, 699.)

GILES KNIGHT, Mary his wife and son, Joseph, of Gloucestershire. Settled in Bucks, and died November, 1726, in his 74th year. (Comly's Byberry, 179.)

WILLIAM LUSHINGTON. (Witness to the will of William Wade.)

HANNAH MOGDRIE. (Registry of Arrivals.)

JOSHUA MORRIS. (Witness to will of Thomas Herriott.)

DAVID OGDEN. (Witness to will of Thomas Herriott.) Probably from London. (See Records of Friends' certificates.)

EVAN OLIVER, with Jean his wife, and children David, Elizabeth, John, Hannah, Mary, Evan, and Seaborn, of *Radnorshire*, Wales. The last, "a daughter born at sea, October 24th, 1682, almost within sight of the capes of Delaware." (MS. Record in possession of Mr. Merrit Canby.)

— PEARSON. Stated by Clarkson, vol. 1, p. 259, to have accompanied Penn, and that name of Upland was changed at his request to that of Chester, from which city he came. We have not ascertained his first name, though we find a Thomas Pearson *returned* as a member of Assembly from county of Newcastle, 16th October, 1700. (1 Col. Rec. 590.) But as this Thomas was probably the same who had an interest in West Jersey, and who was from Bonwicke, *Yorkshire*, (1 Proud, 143, in note,) it was more likely "Robert," of Cheshire, a Friend, and mentioned in 1 Besse, 105. An Edward Peirson resided at Darby, and previously to 1698 removed to Bucks.

JOHN ROWLAND and Priscilla his wife, of *Billinghurst*, Sussex. (Registry of Arrivals.) A first purchaser.

THOMAS ROWLAND, also of *Billinghurst*, Sussex. (Registry of Arrivals.) A first purchaser; died November, 1708.

JOHN SHARPLES, of Ratherton county, Chester, Jane his wife, and children, Phebe, John, James, Caleb, Jane and Joseph, Thomas died at sea. Papers in possession of Mr. Benjamin Ferris, of Wilmington. A first purchaser, settled near Chester.

JOHN SONGHURST, (See probate to will of William Wade,) from Chillington, *Sussex*, (see list of first purchasers,) and Whiting says of Coneyhurst, *Sussex*, but more likely of *Hitchingfield*, *Sussex*, and who suffered for his religious views. (1 Besse, 715, 719.) A warm friend of the Proprietary:



seven years preceded him, under whose hospitable roof they are received and sheltered. The faithful Markham was doubtless there to welcome him; he had already served, and lived still longer to serve, with satisfaction and fidelity.

It was upon Sunday, the 29th\* day of October, O. S.,

a member of first Assembly held at Philadelphia, and of subsequent Assemblies. (1 Votes, 7, 34, 46.) A writer in defence of the Quakers, and eminent minister in his Society. (Whiting's Catalogue, 160.) Died, 1688. (1 Proud, 237.)

JOHN STACKHOUSE and Margery his wife, of Yorkshire. (Certificate of Settle Meeting.)

GEORGE THOMPSON. (Witness to wills of Heriott, Barber, Ingram, and Wade.)

RICHARD TOWNSEND, wife Anne, and son James "born on Welcome," in Del. River. (Abingdon Records.) "A person of an approved character." (1 Proud, 228.) Of London. (List of first purchasers.) An eminent minister in his Society, and died in May, 1737. (Collec. Mem. 102.)

WILLIAM WADE, of parish of *Hankton*, Sussex. (See will made 20th September, 1682, on "Welcome," A, p. 13.)

THOMAS WALNESLY, "Elizabeth his wife and six children," of Yorkshire. (Certificate of Settle Meeting.) Died, October, 1754, aged about 80. (Comly's Byberry, 183.)

NICHOLAS WALN, of Yorkshire. (Certificate of Settle Meeting.) A member from Bucks of first Assembly held at Philadelphia, and of subsequent Assemblies; prominent in early history of province; a first purchaser; died August, 1744.

JOSEPH WOODROOFE. (Witness to will of John Barber.)

THOMAS WRIGHTSWORTH "and wife," of Yorkshire. (Certificate from Settle Meeting.)

THOMAS WYNNE, "Chirurgion," of Caerwys, Flintshire, North Wales. (Witness to will of Thomas Heriott.) Speaker of the first two Assemblies held at Philadelphia; afterwards a member in 1687 and 1688. A magistrate for county Sussex. Wrote several tracts in defence of his Society, (Whiting's Cat. 206,) and was, says Proud, (vol. 1, p. 237) "a person of note and character." Chestnut street, in Philadelphia, was originally named after him; died March, 1691-2.

\* The authority for this is Penn's letter to Herman, dated "Upland, 29th of 8th month, 1682;" Hazard's Annals, 599. But since the above was written, the writer, through the kindness of Mr. Benjamin Ferris, has received a copy of the following memorandum from a MS. book of Evan Oliver, a passenger in the Welcome: "Wee arrived at Upland in Pensilvania, in America, ye 28th of ye 8th month, '82." There is no proof that Penn landed at Upland on the 28th, it is possible that Oliver, by land or otherwise, at once proceeded there, and did not remain at Newcastle. With, however, a favorable wind and tide, if the formalities of the surrender at Newcastle



1682, the first day of the week, that they landed; when, with hearts full of gratitude, the little band at once proceeded to the house of Wade, where the religious meetings of the Society had been held, and gave thanks for their safe deliverance from sickness, death, the perils of the deep, and the persecutions of their native land.

The feebleness of the Dutch and Swedish colonies, after an existence of more than half a century, as compared with the rapid increase and prosperity of the settlement of Pennsylvania, was owing to several causes. Both were military colonies, both were engaged in continual disputes, and both wanted a steady and vigorous administration. The growth of the Dutch was impeded by the slightness of the accessions to their number, by their dependence on New Amsterdam, and by the unwise policy of the Dutch West India Company. The want of a cordial support from home, at the period when they most needed it, retarded the advancement of the Swedes. In justice let it be said, however, that the rapid progress made under the Proprietary was, in some measure, owing to the pre-existence of these colonies. They peopled the country. The shore from some distance above Bristol to the Capes had been purchased of the Indians, and was, in many parts, under cultivation. And as to the Swedes, a pious and industrious people, advocates of religious liberty, and friends of the Indian, they had done much to prepare the way for our founder.\*

permitted, it may have been in the power of Penn to have reached Upland, and as he probably did, during the afternoon or evening of the 28th. As the next was the first day of the week, it would have been natural that he should have felt the wish to have done so. It is to be hoped, since many unpublished letters of Penn and his companions must yet exist, that this note may elicit the desired information.

\* At the period of the acquisition of the province by Penn, the region from Chester to the Neshaminy, and still further northwards to an undefined extent, was called the "Upland jurisdiction." The whole number of taxables within its limits, and which included every male inhabitant of twenty-one years, amounted, in November, 1677, to 126 souls, who were, with but few exceptions, all Swedes. The country from the mouth of the Schuylkill, northwardly was called Taoconink, (Tacony,) and contained 65 taxables.

The tax levied was twenty-six gilders on every freeman, and was, we presume, principally devoted to the support of the Courts, and the extinction of





He came, and soon won the confidence and affection of Indians, Swedes, and Dutch. They gathered around him—he brought the scattered elements into union, and the little colony became an infant nation. They saw in him a ruling spirit—they felt safe in his hands—they looked up to him as to a father, and were profoundly impressed with the humanity, the goodness, the wisdom, and the greatness of his character. Having, almost immediately after his arrival, called the people together, the first Assembly within our borders was held in this place, and in a building which we regret should have perished.

To our mind there is something sublime in this prompt acknowledgment by the Proprietary of the fountain of all power—the people. He presents his body of laws, some of which were derived from the Duke's Laws, and some had doubtless been suggested by Sidney. All, however, were marked by a spirit of wisdom and humanity. The preamble is, in our

wild animals, as the cost of opening roads appears to have been a charge on all; for, by an order of Court, "every person" was "required to make good and passable roads, with bridges where needed, from neighbor to neighbor, so that neighbors may come together." All notices of the description just referred to, as they had no Court House at that period, were published by being posted on the doors of the only two churches in this region—the Swedish churches at Tinicum and Wicaco. In 1693, and it is to be regretted we have no earlier enumeration of the people under the Proprietary, the Swedish population had considerably increased, for at that time there were in the province 188 Swedish families, composed of 907 individuals. So that counting from the year 1700, and allowing thirty years as a generation, there are, at this moment in our midst, according to the usual computation of descents, nearly 300,000 persons of Swedish ancestry.

In 1693 the entire tax levied for the Province and the three lower counties was £760 16s. 2d., Pennsylvania currency. This was a tax of a penny in the pound, on the clear value of real and personal estate, and of six shillings upon every freeman not owning real estate, and was devoted to the support of the government of the Province. It was distinct from the tax levied for county purposes by the Court, upon presentation by a grand jury, the assessment for which was placed at one pound per acre, Pennsylvania currency, and £10 per hundred acres, for untilled land "by the river," and £5 for that "in the woods," upon which valuation was levied one penny in the pound. This was taxation when an infant, and all must wish it had remained such, instead of becoming the giant which it has.



opinion, one of the noblest compositions on record ; condensed, yet comprehensive, it sets forth, in nervous language, the origin and objects of governments, and points out the true source whence power proceeds, and for what ends it should be exercised.

Chester can never make a nobler boast, than that within *her* limits was first proclaimed, upon the soil of Pennsylvania, this great declaration of republican liberty. Here are the words :

“Whereas, the glory of God Almighty, and the good of mankind, are the reason and end of government, and therefore government itself is a venerable ordinance of God, and forasmuch as it is principally desired and intended by the Proprietary, and governor and freemen of the province of Pennsylvania, and the territories thereunto belonging, to make and establish such laws as shall best preserve true Christian and civil liberty, in opposition to all unchristian, licentious, and unjust practices, whereby God may have his due, Cæsar his due, and the people their due, from tyranny and oppression on the one side, and insolency and licentiousness on the other ; so that the best and firmest foundation may be laid for the present and future happiness of both the governor and the people of this province and territories, and their posterity. Be it enacted,” &c.

The stay of the Proprietary at this time was too brief for his own interests, and those of his colonists. But he remained long enough to leave the impress of wise legislation.

His devotion to the principles of peace with all men—his hatred of superstition and religious persecution—and his humanity to the Indian, were in grateful contrast with the conduct of other colonies. As to his uniform treatment of the Indians, we regard the fact that not one of that race was ever known to shed, within our borders, the blood of a member of the Society of Friends, except in two instances, where there was reason to suppose they had forsaken their peaceful principles, as a signal proof of the soundness of his policy towards them.



The poet writes no less truly than touchingly, when he says:—

“Oft, Pilgrim Land! thy rock-bound coast,  
 Echoed the sound of fears.  
 Hudson! thy savage heeded not  
 Thy blue-eyed maiden’s tears.  
 And Powhatan’s oft sorrowing eyes  
 Gazed on thy purpled flood;  
 But never Indian death-shaft drank  
 One drop of QUAKER blood.”

Penn’s regard was not confined to the prosperity of his own province, but was manifested for the welfare of all. In 1697, in one of the most remarkable papers on record, and which is attributed to him, he proposed an union of the colonies for their common *peace and safety*. We are aware we trench upon an embarrassing question, with regard to his sentiments as to defensive war, but whatever they may have been at any other period than at the date of this plan, no prouder testimony of comprehensiveness of intellect, and far-reaching sagacity could be presented than to have been its author.

The original,\* which is referred to by Chalmers† as the scheme of Penn, and which, he says, was not favorably received by the ministers, the peers, or the public, is in the State Paper Office, at London.\* Many of the phrases, and some of the objects which, one hundred years afterwards, were set forth in our present Constitution, will arrest the attention of the student of our history.

“A brief and plain scheme, how the English colonies in the north parts of America, viz., Boston, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Carolina, may be made more

\* We are indebted to Mr. John Cadwalader for a copy of this document.

† Vol. i. p. 272.

‡ In the “Catalogue of Papers Relating to Pennsylvania and Delaware, deposited at the State Paper Office, London,” published in the *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, vol. iv. part 2, p. 265, it is noticed as follows: “1696–7, February 8, Mr. Penn’s Scheme for rendering the Northern Colonies of America, more useful to England.” (Original not signed.)—Plant. Gen. B. T. V. 4. A. 40. (6 folios.)





useful to the Crown, and one another's peace and safety, with an universal concurrence.

"1st. That the several colonies before mentioned, do meet once a year, and oftener, if need be, during the war, and at least once in two years in times of peace, by their stated and appointed deputies, to debate and resolve of such measures as are most advisable for their better understanding, and the public tranquillity and safety.

2. That in order to it, two persons well qualified for sense, sobriety and substance, be appointed by each Province, as their representatives or deputies, which in the whole make the Congress to consist of twenty persons.

3. That the King's Commissioner for that purpose specially appointed, shall have the chair and preside in the said Congress.

4. That they shall meet as near as conveniently may be, to the most central colony for ease of the deputies.

5. Since that may in all probability be New York, both because it is near the centre of the colonies, and for that it is a frontier and in the King's nomination; the governor of that colony may, therefore, also being the King's High Commissioner, preside during the session, after the manner of Scotland.

6. That their business shall be to hear and adjust all matters of complaint or difference, between Province and Province.

As 1st, where persons quit their own province and go to another, that they may avoid their just debts, though they may be able to pay them.

2d. Where offenders fly justice, or justice cannot well be had upon such offenders in the provinces that entertain them.

3d. To prevent or cure injuries in point of commerce.

4th. To consider of ways and means to support the union and safety of their provinces against the public enemies. In which Congress, the quotas of men and charges, will be much easier and more equally set, than it is possibly for any estab-



lishment made here to do. For the provinces knowing their own condition, and one another's, can debate that matter with more freedom and satisfaction, and better adjust and balance their affairs in all respects for the common safety.

7th. That in times of war, the King's High Commissioner shall be General or Chief Commander, of the several quotas upon service against the common enemy, as he shall be advised for the good benefit of the whole."

Such was the sagacious plan, by which he proposed to bind the colonies together. He was nearly a hundred years in advance of his age. When the prophet, in a vision of the night, read the dream of the King of Babylon, he saw the import of that great Image, whose "brightness" was excellent, and form terrible, but which with all its strength of iron, of brass, and of silver, was to be broken into pieces, and become as the chaff of the summer threshing floor, while that which was to destroy it, was to become a great mountain, and fill the earth, emblematic of a nation that should spring up, "never to be destroyed nor left to other people," but which should consume kingdoms, and stand forever.

But it could not be vouchsafed to Penn, to a mere mortal, to behold the crumbling of a mighty power upon this continent, from whose ruins should arise, that colossal figure of symmetry and strength, which now overshadows a hemisphere!

Let it be our fervent prayer, that *it, too*, "may stand forever!"

Nearly a century and a half after common consent had assigned Penn, the position of a good, wise, and great man, it is suddenly demanded, that we should reverse the decision of history. The records of the past are so thinly scattered with the names of those who have done honor to their race, that we cannot agree to blot them out without a struggle. He whose life had been a series of virtuous actions, and whose noble nature, imprisonment could not terrify, privations unnerve, ingratitude provoke, nor temptation, greater than that to which it is alleged he yielded, entice, it would be supposed



had laid up a character upon earth that could not easily be assailed. But he has not lacked defenders.

The errors and the prejudice of the brilliant historian, have been signally proved and rebuked.

The history of the Province, in its relation to the interests and happiness of Penn, is a melancholy one. It touches the heart. The strife between his deputies and the Assembly—the ingratitude, unjust and grasping spirit of the people—the misrepresentation of his best intentions and most prudent measures—the machinations of his enemies, Quarry, Lloyd, and their adherents—his difficulties with Lord Baltimore—the consequences of his misplaced confidence in his fraudulent agents, the Fords—his distressing pecuniary embarrassments—the constant threats of taking his government from him—the political persecutions which he underwent in England—in short, the incidents of his troubled career from the day on which he landed here, until a merciful Providence clouded his intellect, and dulled the sharpness of his sorrows, form as painful a picture as was ever presented to the eye of sympathizing humanity.

Would that history recorded another story.

When Sir Christopher Wren beheld the result of his conceptions, as the last block found its resting place, and the glorious fabric of St. Paul's rose before him in all its majesty of column, entablature, and dome, his proud heart swelled within him as he gazed and wept, and gazed and wept. But how much purer and more exalted must have been the emotions of Penn, as he traced the last lines of his immortal charter, and made sure the liberties of millions then and yet unborn; and which when the great master work of the British architect will have sunk into the dust, shall cause civilized man in ages and in lands remote to rise and call him blessed. Let us, therefore, forget his sorrows, and feel assured that had it, by some miraculous interposition been permitted, that he should have seen his trials in sad array before him, but at the





same time, in the brighter and more distant future, the greatness, prosperity and peace of his beloved Pennsylvania, his self-denying nature would have submitted not only without a murmur, but with joy.

And in conclusion, allow me to express the hope, that the commemoration of this day, once so regularly observed, will never again be permitted to pass without some expression on our part, of the regard we feel for the virtues and the wisdom of our Founder.

In the eloquent lines of a fellow member,\* uttered upon an occasion similar to the present, let me invoke you to—

“Rekindle your ancestral fires;  
 ’Tis mind that crowns your natal place;  
 ’Twas virtue hither brought your sires,  
 And virtue shall protect their race.  
 Then oft revive the inspiring thought,  
 And make the glorious blessing sure;  
 And freedom thus, by justice bought,  
 From age to age shall still endure.”

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\* Dr. Benjamin H. Coates.



1667-196

## APPENDIX.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA having resolved to celebrate the one hundred and sixty-ninth anniversary of the Landing of Penn at Chester, met for the purpose at that place, on the 8th of November, 1851, when MR. ARMSTRONG delivered the foregoing address, in the Methodist Episcopal Church; after which, having visited the spot where the Founder landed, and also the site of the "Essex House," the Society dined together at "Price's Hotel," where MR. WILLIAM RAWLE took the head of the table as President of the day, assisted, as Vice President, by ALFRED LANGDON ELWYN, M.D.

The Rev. Dr. Balch and Mr. John M. Broomall of Chester; Henry R. Schoolcraft, LL.D. of Washington; Hon. William Huffington and Mr. Benjamin Ferris of Wilmington, Delaware; and Mr. John F. Watson of Germantown, were present as invited guests.

After the removal of the cloth, the following regular toasts were drunk, which were responded to by several of the invited guests and members of the Society.

1. The Memory of William Penn.
2. The Pilgrim Fathers of Pennsylvania, men of clear heads and sound hearts, who granted to others the religious liberty which they sought for themselves.
3. "Upland"—Prosperity to the ancient borough, the spot where first our Founder set his foot upon the soil of Pennsylvania.



4. The State of Delaware. The memory of our common origin must ever endear to us the inhabitants of the "Three Lower Counties."

5. The Swedish and Dutch settlers upon the Delaware. The memory of their virtues is part of the heritage of Pennsylvania.

6. The Treaty under the Elm—unsanctioned by an oath and never broken.

7. Our beloved Commonwealth. May community of principles and feelings unite all her sons, from Delaware to Erie, and Wayne to Green.

8. The Founders of the Society. Honor to the memory of those who are gone ; health and prosperity to the living.

9. Our sister Historical Societies throughout the Union.

10. The health of Mr. William Hepworth Dixon, of London, who has, with the light of truth, dissipated the Scotch mist of prejudice.





Since this Address went to press, the writer, through the kindness of Mr. Joshua Francis Fisher, has been placed in possession of a "Registry of Arrivals," in which the names of the following additional persons are recorded as having sailed in the "Welcome," making ninety-five of the one hundred who embarked; and as two individuals are mentioned in the foregoing note at p. 22, as having sailed with their "families," the list is probably complete.

BARTHOLOMEW GREEN.

NATHANIEL HARRISON,

THOMAS JONES.

JEANE MATHEWS.

DENNIS ROCHFORD, of Emstorfeý, county of Wexford, Ireland, and wife Mary, daughter of John Heriott of Hurst-Pier-Point; daughters Grace and Mary died at sea.

WILLIAM SMITH.

HANNAH, daughter of Richard Townsend.

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#### ERRATA.

At page 23, for "*Gilphin*," read "Gilpin."

" 24, for "Ratherton county, Chester, read "Ratherton, county Chester.

" 25, for "*thy savage*," read "the" savage.

" "*Powhatan's*," read "Powhatan."

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